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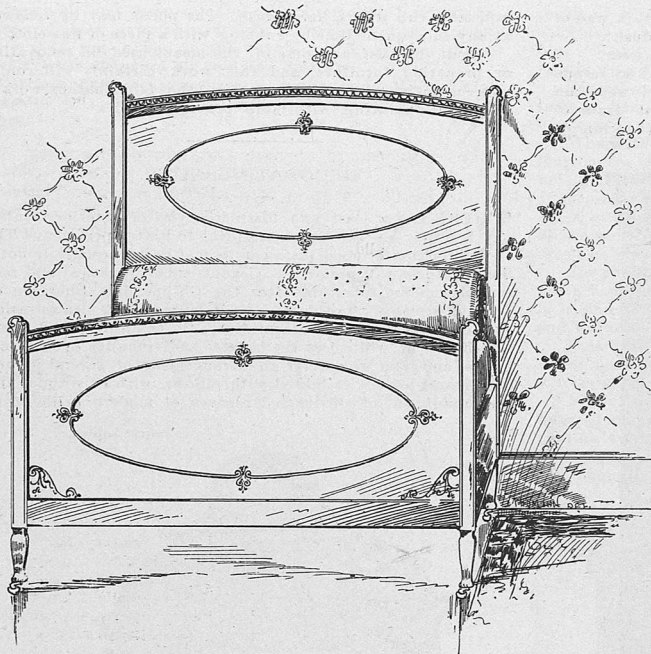
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CURLY BIRCH.

By JAMES THOMSON.



ONE of the pretty woods that has lately come into more general use is the one known as curly birch. It is a wood with the lustrous softness of satin, and the most delightfully variegated wavy grain. It might be deemed unnecessary to say that this wood is no new discovery—it has been growing for ages doubtless, and has been used more or less as an inferior wood for many years. It has been reserved, however, for the present generation to discover its latent beauties and to seal it with the approval of the fashionable world as fit companion to share the honors with the imperial mahogany.

For the bedroom and boudoir it is particularly well adapted, its soft color blending harmoniously with the delicate tints now so popular. Given a room with a northern exposure this wood is especially to be commended, with the walls and hangings in soft reds and yellows, dots of color here and there in the shape of jars and flowers. A few bright water colors on the walls and sash curtains of creamy lace we can live in sunshine though its rays be absent. The accompanying designs represent the bedstead and bureau belonging to a suite in curly birch recently seen. The wood was of exceptional beauty in its markings, and the price for three pieces—bedstead, bureau and washstand—was \$90.00.

DECORATIVE NOTES.

THE common laundry table, says *Harper's Bazar*, is much used for hall and piazza settles, and when stained and cushioned it bears no small resemblance to the antique "monks' benches" which have been revived of late.

A table of this sort may be purchased for \$4 or \$5, and by pasting strips of lincrusta along the edges and applying oak stain a very good effect of carved oak may be obtained, but it must be well polished to give a satisfactory result.

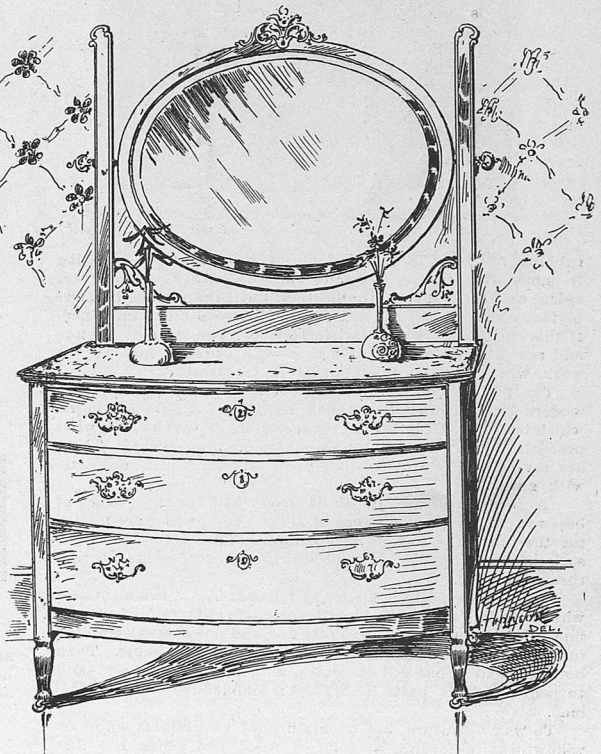
Mirrors are sometimes set in the high back, which add much to its elegance, and with a cushion of dark green corduroy for the seat a really effective piece of furniture may be secured.

These benches are often ornamented with poker-work, which is easily mastered; but nail-head decoration is the simplest and most showy of all, as no skill whatever is required, only mathematical accuracy in drawing the pattern and a certain regularity in driving the nails.

For piazza use this settle is very popular, but treatment of the sort first mentioned would be too elaborate, and a simple application of dark red paint, with a cushion of corduroy or linen to match, is all that is necessary.

AN exquisite piece of fancy work is a handkerchief box, made of two squares of cardboard, covered with perfumed wadding and then with white silk. That for the cover has a dainty ornamentation in water colors. They are joined by a very full frill of thin silk, which thus forms a puff. Around the upper piece is sewed a ruffle, not very full, of fine lace.

"CONFIDENCE cushions" are the pillows that stand in a corner near the fireplace when they are not in use, and that afford a resting place when in use for the lowly individual who likes to sit at her friend's feet. They are big, square and frillless, covered with denim or mohair plush.



BEDSTEAD AND BUREAU IN CURLY BIRCH. DESIGNED BY JAMES THOMSON.